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General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420)*]

72/212. Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[7] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[8] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling its resolution 69/213 of 19 December 2014, entitled "Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development", and its resolution 70/197 of 22 December 2015, entitled "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors",

Welcoming the efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan in hosting the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference, and noting with appreciation the Ashgabat Statement on Commitments and Policy Recommendations of the Conference,[9]

Recalling the Ashgabat Declaration, adopted at the High-level International Conference on the Role of Transit Transport Corridors in Ensuring International Cooperation, Stability and Sustainable Development held in Ashgabat on 3 and 4 September 2014,[10] in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Road Transport Union,

Noting the holding of the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Moscow from 5 to 9 December 2016 and the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the holding of the ministerial meeting on the past and future of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva on 21 February 2017 and the adoption of the ministerial resolution entitled "Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility",

Recalling its resolutions 55/215 of 21 December 2000, 56/76 of 11 December 2001, 58/129 of 19 December 2003, 60/215 of 22 December 2005, 62/211 of 19 December 2007, 64/223 of 21 December 2009, 66/223 of 22 December 2011, 68/234 of 20 December 2013 and 70/224 of 22 December 2015 on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector,

Recalling also its resolutions 57/309 of 22 May 2003, 58/9 of 5 November 2003, 58/289 of 14 April 2004, 60/5 of 26 October 2005, 62/244 of 31 March 2008, 64/255 of 2 March 2010, 66/260 of 19 April 2012, 68/269 of 10 April 2014 and 70/260 of 15 April 2016 on improving global road safety and the need to develop plans to

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[7] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[9] A/C.2/71/6, annex.

[10] A/68/991, annex.

improve road safety along international road transit corridors in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020,

Recalling further the importance of international collaboration in furthering the work of the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization to enhance the sustainability of international shipping and aviation,

Recalling, in this regard, the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Road Safety,

Taking note of the global transport outlook report of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport, entitled "Mobilizing sustainable transport for development",

Recognizing that increasing investment in infrastructure is critical to integrate global economies, which will drive growth and help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while the need for infrastructure is still enormous and pressing and will continue to grow, realizing that filling the huge gap in infrastructure financing will require public and private financing as well as technologies, know-how and operational efficiencies, and in this regard affirming the need to enhance infrastructure investment and experience-sharing,

Affirming the importance of the spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and shared benefit in promoting infrastructure connectivity and sustainable transport, as well as regional and interregional economic integration and cooperation,

Emphasizing that all investments to facilitate international transport worldwide should seek ways to preserve natural and cultural heritage as well as promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, and should be compatible with relevant intergovernmental agreements,

Reiterating the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems that link them to international markets, and in this regard reaffirming that the Almaty Declaration,[11] the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024[12] constitute a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

Stressing the importance of enhancing inter-island connectivity and linking the economies of small island developing States to regional markets and global supply chains, including by integrating them into existing and emerging maritime and multimodal transport and economic corridors, and encouraging sustainable transport initiatives in the context of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework,

Reiterating the importance of actively supporting private sector investment, including through public-private partnerships and grant/loans blending, for infrastructure development and maintenance in communications and in multimodal transport such as railways, roads, waterways, warehouses and port facilities in the least developed countries, and in this regard recalling that the Istanbul Declaration

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[11] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[12] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[13] highlights the need to build the infrastructure of the least developed countries as a priority area for action,

Recognizing the important role of sustainable transport in promoting policy synergies, trade facilitation, infrastructure connectivity, financial cooperation and people-to-people exchange at the subregional, regional and global levels, which are some key areas in achieving sustainable development,

Emphasizing the need to promote harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit as well as bilateral, subregional and regional agreements for parties thereto,

Noting that, in developing multimodal transport systems, it is necessary to take into account street, road, including public transport systems, rail, maritime, inland shipping, ferry and air transport, as well as non-motorized transport such as cycling and walking, and emphasis should be placed on low-carbon-based and energy-efficient modes of transport and an increased reliance on interconnected transport networks, including public transport systems, for seamless and "door-to-door" mobility and connectivity of people and goods,

Noting also the importance of cooperation in enhancing transport connectivity through an integrated intermodal transport system by exchanging best practices to optimize the development of interconnected highways, roads, streets, railways, waterways, areas of modal transfer and ports, and by encouraging transport infrastructure construction and operations to minimize consumption of energy, land and other resources, generate lower emissions of greenhouse gases, ozone-depleting substances and other pollutants and ensure a positive social impact,

Noting further the importance of supporting efforts to provide communities in rural areas, especially in developing countries, with access to major roads, streets, rail lines and public and non-motorized transport options and areas of modal transfer that enable access to economic and social activities and opportunities in cities and towns and that unleash the productivity and competitiveness of rural entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers, which will be important steps needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its promise to "leave no one behind",

Stressing the necessity of promoting the integration of science, technology and innovation into sustainable, integrated, multimodal and intermodal transport systems by tapping into technological opportunities in the decades to come to bring about fundamental, transformative changes to transport systems, including energy efficiency technologies, renewable energy and low-carbon fuel technologies as well as information and communications technologies, and to strengthen capacity-building support to developing countries,

Reiterating the importance of transport and transit corridors in facilitating transport linkages on domestic routes and promoting urban-rural connectivity in order to boost economic growth at the local and regional levels, promote interconnections between cities, peoples and resources and facilitate intraregional and interregional trade,

Reiterating also that international transport corridors should be identified, designed and developed, keeping in mind the safety and protection of transport users and the competitive advantages of each mode of transport and addressing infrastructure needs and the regulatory and institutional framework for the services

[13] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chaps. I and II.

that those corridors provide, including the promotion of social dialogue, safety and health in the workplace and gender balance in the workforce to improve the quality of life,

Reaffirming its commitment to promote access for all to safe, age- and gender-responsive, affordable, accessible and sustainable urban mobility and land and sea transport systems, enabling meaningful participation in social and economic activities in cities and human settlements, by integrating transport and mobility plans into overall urban and territorial plans and promoting a wide range of transport and mobility options,

Welcoming the efforts of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international, regional and subregional organizations, in particular the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Road Transport Union, the International Union of Railways and the International Transport Forum, within their respective mandates, to develop and operationalize international and regional transport and transit corridors,

Reiterating the need for continued international cooperation to address the issues relating to transport and transit corridors as an important element of sustainable development,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development,[14]

Underscoring the need to mobilize, as appropriate, additional financial resources for the development of transport and mobility infrastructure and services, including through the promotion of public-private partnerships, where conceivable and practicable, so as to achieve inclusive and sustainable development,

1. *Commits* to enhancing the role of sustainable transport and mobility in job creation, mobility facilitation and improvement of the efficiency of logistics chains in connecting people and communities to jobs, schools and health care and in the delivery of goods and services to rural and urban communities, thus providing all with equal opportunities and leaving no one behind;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider convening another Global Sustainable Transport Conference, for ensuring the implementation of the objectives of the first Conference, and notes that such a conference would be funded through extrabudgetary resources;

3. *Encourages* Member States to indicate their interest in hosting the next Global Sustainable Transport Conference;

4. *Emphasizes* the contribution of sustainable, low-carbon and energy-efficient modes of transport to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,[15] as well as the importance of long-term strategies and multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivering such sustainable modes of transport;

5. *Calls for* efforts to promote regional and interregional economic integration and cooperation, including by improving the planning of transportation infrastructure and mobility, enhancing connectivity and facilitating trade and investment;

[14] A/70/262.

[15] Resolution 70/1.

6. *Invites* all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the United Nations conventions and agreements on transport and transit facilitation, including the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods[16] and the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention);[17]

7. *Encourages* States to maximize synergies in transport corridors and infrastructure planning and development by taking into account relevant international standards and by aiming to harmonize rules and technological standards, as applicable;

8. *Encourages* the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, relevant international financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and the private sector to further coordinate their efforts and to collaborate in mobilizing financial and technical assistance to countries for strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

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20 December 2017

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[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1409, No. 23583.
[17] Ibid., vol. 1079, No. 16510.

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420)*]

72/213. International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000, 57/101 of 25 November 2002, 60/216 of 22 December 2005, 63/279 of 24 April 2009, 66/193 of 22 December 2011 and 69/209 of 19 December 2014,

Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term consequences of its activity for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into account the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing ground, but that serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Taking into consideration the results of the International Conference on Semipalatinsk, held in Tokyo on 6 and 7 September 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Acknowledging the progress made towards accelerating the development of the Semipalatinsk region during the period from 2014 to 2016, through programmes and actions of the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing also the challenges that Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government

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of Kazakhstan to ensure the effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with regard to health care and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing further that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations for establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socioeconomic development and health and environmental protection, and for the provision of information on risks to the population,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts of Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region and the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking note of the need to utilize modern technologies to minimize and mitigate radiological, health, socioeconomic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

Considering the importance of cooperation with the United Nations in establishing a coherent framework for strengthening coordination and information-sharing, as appropriate, among various actors in the region to plan, implement and monitor inclusive regional socioeconomic programmes and services, with special attention to vulnerable groups in the region,

Emphasizing the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium to long term,

Expressing appreciation to donor countries and organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and related organizations mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General[1] for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 69/209[1] and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems in the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, implementing measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and surrounding areas, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population, as well as in efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region, including increasing the effectiveness of existing programmes and providing the technical, expert and financial contributions necessary for the implementation of national development programmes for the rehabilitation and development of the Semipalatinsk region;

[1] A/72/343 and A/72/343/Corr.1.

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region, and to promote international awareness of the situation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue pursuing a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in his report;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420)*]

72/214. Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 68/207 of 20 December 2013 and 70/196 of 22 December 2015, and all relevant declarations and conferences on this matter,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their

[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[3] in which Member States recognized the need to promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver,

Recalling also the commitment contained in the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being, adopted by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 2 to 17 December 2016, that tourism can contribute directly to the conservation of the sensitive areas and habitats through a variety of activities and by raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity,

Recalling further its resolution 70/193 of 22 December 2015, entitled "International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017", and noting the ongoing efforts and initiatives to celebrate the Year, with a view to creating awareness of the important contribution of tourism to sustainable development while promoting the exchange of good practices, knowledge and experiences, as well as increased cross-border collaboration by developing joint ventures to increase the synergies of tourism, including the sharing of tourism-related data and statistics, as appropriate,

Recognizing the important cross-cutting role of sustainable tourism as a positive contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty, with a focus on ecotourism, community-based tourism and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, the generation of trade opportunities, protection of the environment, improvement of quality of life, and advancement on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, especially in developing countries,

Stressing the need for responsible tourism, and recognizing the important role that it can play in the protection of children against all forms of exploitation, preventing trafficking in cultural artefacts and ensuring respect for intangible cultural heritage,

Noting in this regard the role of the Central American Integration System,[4] through the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, in the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region,

Commending the ongoing efforts of the Governments of the Central American countries, in coordination with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, in the implementation of existing and new programmes designed to launch and promote sustainable tourism throughout the region,

Noting the existing joint initiatives designed and implemented to stimulate regional tourism integration and to foster the development of indigenous and local communities, such as the Mayan World regional brand,

Recalling the outcomes of the Forum on Tourism, Sustainability and Climate Change in Central America, held from 11 to 13 April 2013 in La Ceiba, Honduras, the declaration of the 15th forum on the development of tourism and on the harmonization of efforts to promote tourism in Central America and the Dominican

[3] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[4] The membership of the Central American Integration System includes Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Republic, held in Guatemala City on 27 August 2014, and the outcomes adopted at the 96th meeting of the Central American Tourism Council, held in San Salvador on 14 July 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Recognizes* the major role that sustainable tourism plays in the development of the Central American countries, as an instrument of social inclusion that generates decent jobs and contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of the population, aimed at achieving poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions;

3. *Recalls* the adoption of the principles of sustainable tourism, developed by the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat and found in its strategic plan for sustainable development, 2014–2018, which captures the region's vision of itself as an integrated, sustainable, multi-location, cross-border destination of high quality and emphasizes its action plan for tourism and climate change as a component of the regional strategy on climate change;

4. *Recognizes* the valuable role of international cooperation with relevant partners, and encourages them to continue to support the implementation of various projects aimed at promoting sustainable tourism in the region by, inter alia, strengthening ecotourism, rural, cultural and heritage tourism, including colonial sites, preventing trafficking in cultural artefacts and ensuring respect for intangible cultural heritage;

5. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Central American countries in converging towards a regional tourism strategy based on preserving the region's biodiversity and natural and cultural attractions and reducing poverty through employment and entrepreneurial tourism development that emphasizes micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, while addressing the adverse effects of climate change, to improve the quality of life of the region's inhabitants;

6. *Appreciates* the continued efforts of the Central American countries to support sustainable tourism development, including the adoption and implementation of new legislation and policies, and encourages them to use sustainable tourism as a tool to promote the eradication of poverty and enhance the protection of biodiversity, cultural heritage and community development;

7. *Recognizes* the continued need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building efforts that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole;

8. *Notes* the importance of adequately measuring the sociocultural and environmental impact of tourism, and encourages efforts to fill the present data gap in this area by taking advantage of the emergence of non-traditional solutions and sources of data, with an overarching goal of advancing the national sustainable development agenda beyond the tourism sector;

9. *Recognizes* that the implementation of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the tourism sector in Central America, and hence advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region,[6] requires, inter alia, the identification and adoption of more resource-efficient tourism planning approaches by all relevant stakeholders;

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[5] A/72/174.

[6] Resolution 70/1.

10. *Stresses* the need to promote the further development of sustainable tourism, in particular through the consumption of sustainable tourism products and services, and to strengthen the development of ecotourism, maintaining, in particular, the culture and environmental integrity of indigenous and local communities and enhancing the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and the natural heritage and indigenous cultural and religious sites of those communities;

11. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders to join the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10—Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns,[7] which aims at promoting innovation and circular thinking to accelerate resource efficiency in the tourism value chain;

12. *Recognizes* the actions taken with the aim of establishing the first observatory for sustainable tourism in Central America, and invites Governments and other stakeholders to consider joining the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories of the World Tourism Organization, which contributes to the promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable tourism, and to support the practice of informed policymaking around the world;

13. *Urges* the tourism sector in the Central American countries to be part of the coordination, knowledge-sharing and communication mechanisms for security and emergency management at the national and regional levels and to collectively promote an evidence-based approach in developing measures for safe, secure and seamless travel, which will enable government agencies to make relevant, informed and coordinated decisions;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, regional commissions and other regional organizations, as well as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to promote sustainable tourism worldwide;

15. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders and the World Tourism Organization to continue to support the activities undertaken by the Central American countries for the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region, including with regard to emergency preparedness for better disaster risk reduction, as well as for capacity-building, job creation and the promotion of local culture and products, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Encourages* the Central American countries, through the Central American Tourism Council and the Central American Tourism Integration Secretariat, to continue to support sustainable tourism through policies that foster responsive and inclusive tourism, strengthen regional identity and protect their natural and cultural heritage, including their ecosystems and biodiversity, and notes that existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, among other international initiatives, can deliver direct and focused support to Governments;

17. *Recognizes* that people with disabilities have equal rights to access tourism services and opportunities, such as independent travel, accessible services, trained staff, reliable information and inclusive marketing, and that great efforts should be made to ensure that tourism policies and practices are inclusive of persons with disabilities, the majority of whom live in developing countries;

18. *Calls upon* Member States and the tourism sector to take effective measures, in the context of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism initiatives, to help to promote the equal participation of women and the balanced participation of

[7] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, at all levels and in decision-making processes in all areas, and to promote effective economic empowerment, mainly through decent job and income creation;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a set of recommendations to promote and enhance sustainable tourism and sustainable development in its three dimensions in the Central American countries, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420)*]

72/215. Agricultural technology for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/198 of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a vision for a future free from hunger, and recalling the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition,[1] the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)[2] and the recommendations contained in the report on

[1] World Health Organization, document EB 136/8, annex I.

[2] See resolution 70/259.

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nutrition and food systems of the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, adopted at the forty-fourth session of the Committee on World Food Security,[3]

Recalling the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012,[4]

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[5] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the outcome of the forty-fourth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome from 9 to 13 October 2017,[7] taking note of the Committee's voluntary Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,[8] and recalling its Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[9]

Expressing concern about the rise in global hunger, which affected 815 million people in 2016,

Welcoming the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,[10]

Welcoming also the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and welcoming further the progress made in operationalizing the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and encouraging continued support,

Recalling relevant strategies and programmes of action, including the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[11] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[12] and the Vienna Declaration and Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[13] reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[14] and recognizing the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations,

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from

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[3] Committee on World Food Security, document CFS 2017/44/INF/16.

[4] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

[5] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[7] See Committee on World Food Security, document CFS 2017/44/Report.

[8] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

[9] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

[10] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chaps. I and II.

[12] Resolution 69/15, annex

[13] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

[14] A/57/304, annex.

17 to 20 October 2016,[15] and acknowledging the positive transformative potential of strengthened urban-rural linkages and urban farming in achieving sustainable development,

Welcoming also the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[16] and acknowledging that forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, and that forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust and sand storms and other disasters,

Recognizing that agricultural technology has a beneficial impact on and an important role in the successful implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also that agricultural technologies have improved the productivity of agriculture and enhanced the sustainability and resilience of food production systems at the local level,

Recognizing further that the agriculture sector is inextricably linked with the entire food system and that agricultural technologies can add value throughout the food system by improving the sustainability of storage, transport, trade, processing, transformation, retail, waste reduction and recycling, as well as interactions among these processes,

Stressing the crucial role of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution to enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and nutrition and eradicating rural poverty, and underlining the fact that meaningful progress in agricultural development necessitates, inter alia, closing the gender gap, introducing appropriate gender-responsive interventions at all stages in agricultural innovation processes, including at the policy level, and ensuring that women have equal access to agricultural technologies, related services and inputs and all necessary productive resources, including tenure rights and access to land, fisheries and forests, as well as to affordable education and training, social services, social protection, health care, health services and financial services, and access to and participation in local, regional and international markets,

Recognizing that young people play a significant role in supporting sustainable economic growth and that agricultural technology has an essential role to play in facilitating access to agricultural skills for young women and men, improving the livelihoods of youth and securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour,

Recognizing also the rapid evolution in science and technological innovation, and that the development and open access to mega data and information will bring about profound changes in agricultural research, agricultural extension and rural development,

Noting that sustainable agricultural technology, as well as technological, social, economic and institutional innovations that build on the knowledge and capacities and respond to the needs and realities of smallholders and family farmers, in particular women and youth in rural areas, can contribute to their transition from subsistence farming to innovative, commercial production, helping them to increase their own food security and nutrition, generate marketable surpluses and add value to their production,

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[15] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[16] See resolution 71/285.

Acknowledging the role and work of civil society and the private sector in furthering progress in developing countries and promoting sustainable agriculture and management practices, the use of agricultural technology and the training of smallholder farmers, in particular rural women,

Stressing the need to design innovative food systems that protect and enhance the natural resource base while increasing productivity and that respond to the challenges posed by, inter alia, climate change, the depletion and scarcity of natural resources, urbanization and globalization, and recognizing that agricultural technology can contribute to food security and nutrition and help to build resilience,

Emphasizing that participatory research, in conjunction with effective, pluralistic and demand-driven extension and rural advisory services, is critical in order to ensure that agricultural technologies respond to the demands and needs of family farmers and smallholder producers,

Recognizing the need to further enhance the linkages between agricultural technology and agroecological principles, such as recycling, resource use efficiency, reducing external inputs, diversification, integration, soil health and synergies, in order to design sustainable farming systems that strengthen the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment for food security and nutrition, enhance productivity, improve nutrition, conserve the natural resource base and attain more sustainable and innovative food systems,

Stressing the need to support and strengthen information systems and statistical systems for better disaggregated data collection and processing, which will be key in monitoring progress in the adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies and their impact on improving food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture,

Inviting the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to consider ways to make available data and information relating to agriculture and food systems, including meteorology, big data, the Internet of things, satellite imagery, early warning systems and other data-based technologies, that could help to build the resilience of family farmers and smallholder producers, optimize yields and support rural livelihoods,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[17]

2. *Urges* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to improve the development of sustainable agricultural technologies and their transfer and dissemination under mutually agreed terms to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in particular at the bilateral and regional levels, and encourages international, regional and national efforts to strengthen capacity and foster the utilization of local know-how in developing countries, especially that of smallholder and family farmers, in particular rural women and youth, in order to enhance the productivity and nutritional quality of food crops and animal products, promote sustainable practices in pre-harvest and post-harvest agricultural activities and enhance food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies that take into consideration the specific needs of women, young children and youth, with particular attention to securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour;

3. *Recognizes* that the livestock sector is a powerful engine for the development of the agriculture and food sector, food security and nutrition, a driver of major economic, social and environmental changes in food systems worldwide and

[17] A/72/216.

a uniquely powerful entry point for understanding the issues around sustainable agricultural development as a whole;

4. *Also recognizes* the important role of family farming and smallholder farming in contributing to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition and the role that family farms play in ensuring global food security, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, as well as job creation;

5. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to mainstream gender perspectives into agricultural policies and projects and to focus on closing the gender gap by, inter alia, encouraging gender-balanced investments and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, supported by integrated and multisectoral policies, in order to improve women's productive capacity and incomes, strengthen their resilience and achieve equitable access to labour-saving technologies and agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment, decision-making forums and associated agricultural resources to ensure that agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of women and the barriers that women face in accessing agricultural inputs and resources;

6. *Encourages* Governments to develop and implement youth-focused agricultural development projects and programmes, including through training, education, financial inclusion services, including microcredit services, and capacity-building, including with regard to innovation, in association with the private sector, in order to stimulate the interest and the involvement of youth in agriculture;

7. *Remains concerned* that agricultural innovations and technologies often bypass ageing famers, and in particularly ageing women farmers, as many do not possess the financial resources or the skills to adopt new practices, and in this regard stresses the need to strengthen the capacity of ageing farmers through continued access to financial and infrastructure services and training for improved farming techniques and technologies;

8. *Acknowledges* the importance of adopting innovative and sustainable food systems by harnessing science, technology and innovation, promoting participatory research, demand-driven extension and rural advisory services and increased public and private investment, building human capacity, encouraging entrepreneurship, creating an enabling economic and institutional environment and strengthening knowledge flows, in particular between scientists and farmers, taking into account local and traditional knowledge systems, in combination with new sources of knowledge;

9. *Invites* Governments and international organizations, in collaboration with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to promote, as appropriate, consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, the growth of agricultural cooperatives through easy access to affordable finance, the adoption of sustainable production techniques, investment in rural infrastructure and irrigation, strengthened marketing mechanisms, access to appropriate risk management instruments and support for the participation of women and youth in economic activities;

10. *Underlines* the importance of supporting and advancing research in improving and diversifying crop varieties and seed systems, as well as supporting the establishment of sustainable agricultural systems, management practices and use of new technologies, such as conservation agriculture, integrated soil fertility management, integrated farming systems, animal disease control and integrated pest management, precision agriculture, irrigation, livestock management and biotechnologies, in order to make agriculture more resilient and productive and, in particular, to make crops and farm animals more tolerant to diseases, pests and

environmental stresses, including the impacts of climate change such as drought and extreme rainfall events, in accordance with national regulations and relevant international agreements;

11. *Stresses* the need to significantly reduce pre-harvest, post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain through, inter alia, improved production planning, the promotion of resource-efficient production and processing practices, improved preservation and packing technologies, improved transportation and logistics management and enhanced awareness of purchasing and consumption habits, to help all actors in the value chain to enjoy greater benefits and to contribute to climate change mitigation;

12. *Recognizes* that strengthening urban-rural linkages can improve both rural and urban food security and nutrition, and in this regard highlights the need for integrated urban and territorial agriculture land planning, improved rural-urban transportation links, food packaging technology and cold chain development to reduce food loss, and for effective trade links across the urban-rural continuum, which will contribute to ensuring that small-scale farmers and fishers are linked to local, subnational, national, regional and global value chains and markets;

13. *Also recognizes* that urban farming and agriculture can improve the food, nutrition and income security of urban dwellers, and in this regard highlights the need to further develop agricultural technology in support of sustainable urbanization, including sustainable intensification through indoor and vertical farming, the use of automation to overcome intensive labour challenges, the innovative use of urban spaces for agriculture and the promotion of urban farming as a career, in order to reduce hunger and malnutrition and to promote sustainable urban development;

14. *Underlines* the importance of the sustainable use and management of water resources to increase and ensure agricultural productivity, and calls for further efforts to develop and strengthen irrigation facilities and water-saving technology, which can also contribute to climate change mitigation, without compromising productivity;

15. *Encourages* Member States, civil society and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to support financial and market services, including training, capacity-building, infrastructure and extension and rural advisory services, and calls for further efforts by all stakeholders to include smallholder farmers, in particular rural women and youth, in planning and taking decisions about making appropriate sustainable agricultural technologies and practices accessible and affordable to them;

16. *Recognizes* the important role of information and communications technology in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by constituting a tool for improving agricultural productivity, practices and smallholder livelihoods, strengthening agricultural markets and institutions, improving agricultural extension and rural advisory services, empowering farmer communities, keeping farmers and rural entrepreneurs informed about agricultural innovations, weather conditions, input availability, financial services and market prices and connecting them with buyers, and stresses the need to ensure the access of women and youth to information and communication technology, especially in rural areas;

17. *Calls upon* Member States to include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies, notes the positive impact that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can have in this regard, and urges the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to include elements of agricultural technology, research and development in efforts to realize the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development,[15] with a focus on the research and development of technology that is affordable, durable and sustainable and that can be easily used by and disseminated to smallholder farmers, in particular rural women and ageing farmers;

18. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to promote, support and facilitate the exchange of experience among Member States through, inter alia, guidance and other public goods related to ways to promote sustainable agriculture and increase the adaptive capacity of agriculture and the use of a broad range of agricultural technologies that support more sustainable food systems, build long-term fertility, healthy and resilient agroecosystems and secure livelihoods and have a positive impact on the entire value chain, including technology for post-harvest crop storage, processing, handling and transportation, including in pressing environmental circumstances;

19. *Underlines* the instrumental role of agricultural technology, agricultural research and innovation and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the sharing of knowledge and practices in furthering sustainable development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, calls, therefore, upon Member States, and encourages relevant international bodies, to support sustainable agricultural research and development, and in this regard calls for continued support to the international agricultural research system, including the research centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international organizations and initiatives;

20. *Stresses* the importance of indicators that can be used to formulate targeted policies towards the adoption of agricultural technology and to measure their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard encourages Member States, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, to continue to contribute to the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on the global indicator framework;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include the item entitled "Sustainable development" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

[15] Resolution 70/1.

United Nations A/RES/72/216

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.1)*]

72/216. Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 64/236 of 24 December 2009, 65/152 of 20 December 2010, 66/197 of 22 December 2011, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, 67/203 of 21 December 2012, 68/210 of 20 December 2013, 68/309 of 10 September 2014, 68/310 of 15 September 2014, 69/108 of 8 December 2014, 69/214 of 19 December 2014, 70/201 of 22 December 2015 and 71/223 of 21 December 2016 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome document of the United Nations

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

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Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[7] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[9] the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[11] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[12]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[13] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[14] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

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[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] Resolution S-21/2, annex.

[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[12] Resolution 68/6.

[13] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[14] Ibid., chap. II.

Recalling further the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024[15] and the Vienna Declaration,[16]

Recalling the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[17]

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Reaffirming also the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[18] adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,

Welcoming also the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[19] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[20] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Emphasizing the importance of oceans for sustainable development, as embodied in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and various decisions taken by the former Commission on Sustainable Development, reaffirming in this regard the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,[21] taking note of its seven partnership dialogues, and calling upon all stakeholders to urgently undertake, inter alia, the actions highlighted in the call for action adopted at the Conference and implement the respective voluntary commitments pledged by individual Member States and other stakeholders during the Conference,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21, the relevant outcomes of United Nations conferences, the United Nations Millennium Declaration[22] and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions, and

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[15] Resolution 69/137, annex II.
[16] Ibid., annex I.
[17] Resolution 69/15, annex.
[18] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.
[19] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[21] Resolution 71/312, annex.
[22] Resolution 55/2.

reiterating that sustainable development is a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities,

Recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching and essential objectives for sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] and urges its full implementation;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the resulting processes for the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[23] and for the realization of sustainable development;

3. *Recognizes* in this regard that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development builds upon elements from the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, inter alia, the establishment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the format and organizational arrangements of which were later established by its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, a strengthened Economic and Social Council, as later defined in its resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, the process that led to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, as later defined in its resolutions 68/309 and 70/1, the strengthening of the science-policy interface, including in the form of the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, and the process that led to the adoption of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

4. *Stresses* the need, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to benefit from and build on experiences, best practices, challenges and the lessons learned from the unfinished business of the previous agreements on sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;[24]

6. *Stresses* the importance of overcoming silos and seeking innovative and coordinated approaches in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — at the global, regional and national levels, and requests the United Nations to further mainstream and integrate the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system;

7. *Affirms* the contributions of the ongoing efforts and commitments towards the full implementation of Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[5] including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and stresses the importance of their continued implementation in the pursuit of sustainable development;

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[23] Resolution 70/1.

[24] A/72/228.

8. *Urges* the speedy and effective implementation and the effective follow-up and review of the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[17] and set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and reaffirms that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities;

9. *Emphasizes* that regional and subregional organizations have a role to play in promoting sustainable development in their respective regions by, inter alia, promoting peer learning and cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national processes, as appropriate, to advance sustainable development;

10. *Notes* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, among other commitments on sustainable consumption and production, adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns[25] as a tool for action on sustainable consumption and production, and in this regard recognizes the commitment by the United Nations Environment Assembly to accelerate its implementation, including through relevant voluntary actions by Member States;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system,[26] reiterates the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

12. *Urges* the United Nations to intensify support for States in fully implementing the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in 2016;[27]

13. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country and no one is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in the report a comprehensive and substantive analysis of the unfinished business of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including on demographic dynamics, trade, land resources, toxic chemicals and groundwater contamination, waste, transfer of and cooperation on technology and promotion of sustainable patterns of production and consumption, and also to include the lessons learned in their full implementation, as well as success stories and best practices;

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[25] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

[26] A/72/75-E/2017/56.

[27] Resolution 71/256, annex.

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development".

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/217

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.2)*]

72/217. Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway)[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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Reaffirming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7]

Reaffirming further its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[8]

Recalling also its resolution 71/225 of 21 December 2016 and all relevant previous resolutions,[9]

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[10]

Reaffirming its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for the implementation of, inter alia, the Samoa Pathway and called upon the entities of the development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development,

Reaffirming also that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters,

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[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[9] See resolutions 70/202, 69/288, 69/217 and 69/15.

[10] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Acknowledging that climate change and sea level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability,

Taking note of the various initiatives embodying the important relationship between the ocean and climate change, including the Ocean Pathway initiative, launched on the margins of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[11] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, and reaffirming also that healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017 in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, and in this regard reaffirming the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing that health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of, all three dimensions of sustainable development and that the Samoa Pathway calls for policies and programmes to ensure better health, and recognizing also the need for the prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and for quality essential health-care services, while also reducing the health-related impacts resulting from natural and man-made disasters in small island developing States,

Reaffirming the importance of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework and the progress made, including through the Steering Committee on

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[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Partnerships for Small Island Developing States and the second annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 June 2017, as well as the importance and progress of the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network, and the need for its continued coherence with the Partnership Framework,

Welcoming the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world — taking forward the SAMOA Pathway", held in New York on 12 July 2017,

Recognizing that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

Recognizing also that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

Noting the decline in correspondent banking relationships experienced by many small island developing States, and looking forward in this regard to the continuing consideration of this issue in forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, as appropriate and in accordance with existing mandates,

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[13]

2. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[5] and urges its speedy and effective implementation, as well as effective monitoring, follow-up and review;

3. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions on all means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

4. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

[13] A/72/214, A/71/267, A/71/267/Add.1 and A/70/269.

5. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the Samoa Pathway and set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[14] as well as the outcome documents of all related United Nations conferences and processes, and recognizes the interlinkages between them;

6. *Also recalls* paragraph 16 of its resolution 71/225, notes that the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall devote adequate time at its 2018 meeting and at its future meetings to continuing to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages the high-level political forum to devote sufficient attention to these discussions, bearing in mind that small island developing States are a special case for sustainable development, as well as to lessons learned from the follow-up and review processes of previous conferences on small island developing States and their outcome documents;

7. *Reiterates* the call, made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action",[15] for action to be taken, on an urgent basis, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

8. *Encourages* the full implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, which was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 4 July 2017;

9. *Welcomes* the many ongoing initiatives and programmes in support of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States and of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages other initiatives in this regard;

10. *Acknowledges* in this regard that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels to that effect, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;

11. *Welcomes* the initial efforts undertaken by the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework to monitor and ensure full implementation of the pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States and to ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of those States, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development and ensure the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and in this regard calls upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the Secretariat to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support for the work of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States, and, in particular, to ensure an annual action-oriented, results-focused global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue;

12. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure its effective follow-up and implementation;

13. *Urges* entities of the United Nations system to mainstream, within the realm of their mandates, the Samoa Pathway into their respective strategic plans and frameworks, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to make available sufficient and

[14] Resolution 70/1.

[15] Resolution 71/312, annex.

predictable resources for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support the efforts of small island developing States to strengthen their cooperation on building resilience and on enhancing action with regard to adaptation to climate change;

16. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

17. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings", prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/288 of 8 June 2015;[16]

19. *Underscores* the important role of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in supporting small island developing States, in accordance with their respective mandates, including those under the Samoa Pathway and other intergovernmentally agreed documents and resolutions, and urges their improved coordination and collaboration;

20. *Notes* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Office of the High Representative have significantly expanded, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, on an exceptional basis, without setting a precedent and within existing resources, a transparent and clearly substantiated needs assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the relevant programmes and subprogrammes of the Secretariat and to ensure the allocation of the resources required to adequately respond to the mandates in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative to support the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States, and takes note of the terms of reference adopted at its recent meeting to enhance coherence and effective coordination between United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders and improve communication and consultation with Member States;

22. *Recommends* that the United Nations system continue to work towards ensuring that the activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States, within the mandate of each entity, are aligned with the priorities

[16] See A/72/119 and A/72/119/Add.1.

of those States to foster the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

23. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, and urges the United Nations system to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden on small island developing States through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes;

24. *Urges* the international community to support small island developing States in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, in line with provisions of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate to national contexts, with a view to supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

25. *Urges* United Nations system entities to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all development partners so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of small island developing States at the country level;

26. *Requests* United Nations system entities, including the international financial institutions, to actively contribute, within their respective mandates, to addressing the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including through a more holistic approach for concessional financing so as to enable better access to financing for development for small island developing States;

27. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene a one-day high-level review, at United Nations Headquarters in September 2019, to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, which will result in a concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed political declaration, and decides to consider further the modalities of the review before the end of its seventy-second session;

28. *Decides* to convene, in 2018, regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all small island developing States, in order to undertake a review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway at the national and regional levels, and also decides that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, should organize, facilitate and provide necessary support to the review process at the national, regional and international levels;

29. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the small island developing States in the high-level review process, and in this regard invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders and donors to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States in participating fully and effectively in the high-level review and the various preparatory processes;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including progress made and continuing challenges faced, and the implementation of the present resolution and, in preparing that report, to consult with Member States as well as the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the

specialized agencies and regional commissions, as appropriate, taking into account the work carried out by the entities of the United Nations system, as well as all relevant national, regional and subregional organizations, with a view to taking stock and analysing progress, and to include a section summarizing actions taken and planned to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", unless otherwise agreed.

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.3)*]

72/218. Disaster risk reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/226 of 21 December 2016 and all previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2]

Recalling further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[3] Agenda 21,[4] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[5] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[7] and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8] in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for

[1] Resolution 69/283, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.
[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.
[4] Ibid., annex II.
[5] Resolution S-19/2, annex.
[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[7] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.
[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[9]

Recognizing the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

Reiterating the call in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact this year and in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life, displacement and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular that of developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters, including through transboundary cooperation,

Noting the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 March 2016, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[10] and acknowledging that forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as contribute to soil and water conservation and clean air, and that forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust storms and sandstorms and other natural disasters,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and that the adverse effects of climate change, as contributors to environmental degradation and

[9] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[10] See resolution 71/285.

extreme weather events, may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard acknowledging the internationally agreed outcomes adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[11] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards, including the El Niño phenomenon, and the adverse effects of climate change to estimate and to prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response, early action and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to enhance resilience to their impacts, and recognizing in this regard the importance of developing risk-informed strategies, forecast-based financing approaches and coordinated multi-hazard early warning systems,

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Recalling the observance, on 5 November 2017, of World Tsunami Awareness Day, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/203 of 22 December 2015,

Recognizing the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran as a regional institution of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/226;[13]

2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[2]

3. *Reiterates its call for* the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure

[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[13] A/72/259.

and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages countries, the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, programmes and funds and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk reduction activities for the achievement of sustainable development and, inter alia, strengthening the effectiveness of disaster relief efforts;

5. *Encourages* focused action within and across sectors by countries at the local, national, regional and global levels in the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework, namely, understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and in order to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

6. *Acknowledges* the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system in disaster risk reduction and the updated United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, and encourages the relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to continue to align their work with the Plan of Action in order to enhance the coordination, coherence and efficiency of support to countries on disaster risk reduction, guided by the Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, according to the Sendai Framework;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the global targets adopted in the Sendai Framework;

8. *Recognizes* progress made in achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework;

9. *Also recognizes* in this regard, given the shorter time frame for achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework by 2020, the scale of action needed for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, and thus encourages States to continue to prioritize and support the development of inclusive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, promoting synergies with existing national policies and plans, including national climate change adaptation plans, where relevant, and to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities, as well as the conduct of risk assessments, and reaffirms the need for the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation to augment domestic efforts in accordance with their national priorities;

10. *Encourages* the incorporation of disaster risk reduction measures, as appropriate, into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes within and across all sectors related to sustainable development, including poverty reduction, agriculture, natural resource management, the environment, urban development and adaptation to climate change;

11. *Recognizes* the important contribution of healthy ecosystems to reducing disaster risk and building community resilience, and encourages all States, United

Nations bodies and other relevant actors to promote ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches at all levels;

12. *Also recognizes* that economic losses are rising as a result of the increasing number and value of assets exposed to hazards, and encourages countries to conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure, to make disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure and housing investments and to strengthen regulatory frameworks for land-use planning and building codes, as appropriate, towards achieving target (d) of the Sendai Framework, and in this regard encourages countries to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into social, economic and environmental investments;

13. *Acknowledges* that water is essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,[14] and that water-related disasters and multidimensional hazards threaten lives, livelihoods, agriculture and basic service infrastructure and cause substantial socioeconomic damage and losses, and that sustainable and integrated water resource management is necessary for successful disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and in this regard invites all countries to integrate land and water management, including for floods and droughts, into their national and subnational planning and management processes;

14. *Emphasizes* that preventing and reducing disaster risk provides exponential returns and significantly reduced costs associated with subsequent response, as well as the importance of additional efforts to increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning mechanisms of States, in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to support these efforts;

15. *Urges* States, while implementing the Sendai Framework, to continue working on data collection and the development of baselines on current losses, including working towards the collection of disaggregated information and historical disaster losses going back, at least, to 2005, if feasible;

16. *Encourages* States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where it is reflected across several Goals and targets, including in their voluntary national reviews;

17. *Reiterates its strong encouragement* of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[15] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[16] and the Sendai Framework, as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[12] the Convention on Biological Diversity,[17] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[18] and the New Urban Agenda,[9] while respecting the relevant mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, and addressing the global challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

18. *Urges* that due consideration continue to be given to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the

[14] Resolution 70/1.
[15] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[16] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[18] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework monitor;

19. *Welcomes* the report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction,[19] and the establishment of common indicators and shared data sets to measure the Sendai Framework global targets and the disaster risk reduction targets of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 as an important contribution to ensure coherence, feasibility and consistency in implementation, collection of data and reporting, and also welcomes efforts to develop coherent metrics for reporting under the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant instruments;

20. *Recognizes* that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge, and in this regard encourages States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection of data on disaster loss and other relevant disaster risk reduction targets, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, in reporting on the Sendai Framework;

21. *Looks forward* to the launch in early 2018 of the Sendai Framework monitor, and encourages States to use the online monitor to report on progress against the Sendai Framework global targets and the Sustainable Development Goals related to disaster risk;

22. *Recognizes* the extent to which developing countries are able to effectively enhance and implement national disaster risk reduction policies and measures in the context of their respective circumstances and capabilities can be further enhanced through the provision of sustainable international cooperation;

23. *Also recognizes* the importance of giving priority to the development of local and national disaster risk reduction capacity-building, policies, strategies and plans with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in accordance with national practices and legislation;

24. *Further recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels;

25. *Encourages* Governments to promote the full, equal and effective participation and leadership of women, as well as of persons with disabilities, in the

[19] A/71/544 and A/71/644/Corr.1.

design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, and recognizes in this regard that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to risk, increased loss of livelihoods and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters, and that disasters and the consequent disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems disproportionately affect persons with disabilities and their families;

26. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

27. *Recognizes* that biological hazards require strengthened coordination between disaster and health risk management systems in the areas of risk assessment, surveillance and early warning, and that resilient health infrastructures and strengthened health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),[20] as well as increasing the overall capacity of health systems, reduce overall disaster risk and build disaster resilience;

28. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Mexico for hosting the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May 2017, acknowledges the Chair's summary and the Cancun high-level communiqué, and reaffirms the importance of the Global Platform as a forum to assess and discuss progress on the Sendai Framework and advance coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

29. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Canada, Fiji, Finland, India, Mauritius, Qatar and Tajikistan as hosts of the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, recognizes the platforms as important mechanisms for cooperation to implement the Sendai Framework, looks forward to the upcoming regional platforms and their deliberations, to be held in Colombia, Italy, Mongolia and Tunisia, as well as to the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be hosted by Switzerland in Geneva in 2019, and recognizes the contributions these platforms make to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

30. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk, and encourages States to strengthen international and regional information exchange and sharing, including through establishing and networking risk management centres, promoting critical technology research cooperation on disaster reduction and improving international coordination mechanisms to respond to large-scale natural disasters;

31. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for

[20] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

32. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges existing and new donors to provide sufficient funding and, where possible, to augment financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through unearmarked and, where possible, multi-annual contributions;

33. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the private sector to enhance the resilience of businesses by integrating disaster risk into their management practices and to facilitate private investments in disaster risk reduction;

34. *Reaffirms* that investing in national and local skills, systems and knowledge to build resilience and preparedness will save lives, cut costs and preserve development gains, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, including forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources for Member States before a disaster is credibly expected to occur;

35. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;

36. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/219

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19 (d)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.4)*]

72/219. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012, 68/212 of 20 December 2013, 69/220 of 19 December 2014, 70/205 of 22 December 2015 and 71/228 of 21 December 2016 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also, in full, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention,[2] acknowledging that they are the primary international, intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressing determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noting with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways,

Recalling further the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

Acknowledging that action on adaptation to climate change is an urgent priority for developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

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adverse effects of climate change, and bearing in mind that the provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation,

Welcoming the convening of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, presided over by the Government of Fiji, in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7] the outcomes of the thirteenth to twenty-second sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to twelfth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[8] the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016,[9] the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[10] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[11] the Mauritius Declaration[12] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[13] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[14] the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[15] and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[16]

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[3] Resolution 55/2.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 60/1.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[9] Resolution 70/294, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[11] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[13] Ibid., annex II.

[14] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[15] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[16] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Expressing concern over the findings of the World Meteorological Organization, in its *Greenhouse gas bulletin* of 30 October 2017, which showed that the global average of atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide reached 403.3 parts per million in 2016, the highest such levels in 3 to 5 million years, and that the increase in the annual mean from 2015 to 2016 was 50 per cent above the average growth rate for the past decade,

Taking note of the Green Climate Fund and its successful and timely initial resource mobilization process, making it the largest dedicated climate fund, and its approval of 2.59 billion United States dollars in funding, stressing its goal of ensuring efficient access to its resources through simplified approval procedures and enhancing readiness support, which will help to deliver outcomes in developing countries so as to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change, and reiterating the objectives and guiding principles of the Fund, including a gender-sensitive approach in its process and operations,

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[17]

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests, 2017–2030,[18] and acknowledging that all types of forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation,

Noting the existing framework on forests under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Taking note of the high-level event on climate change and the sustainable development agenda, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 March 2017, convened by the President of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly,

Noting the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in

[17] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[18] See resolution 71/285.

Africa,[19] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[20] as appropriate, while respecting their individual mandates, and welcoming in this context the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,[21] as well as the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,[22]

Noting also the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to addressing the challenge of, inter alia, climate change, within its mandate and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, reaffirming in this regard the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing that, in undertaking its work, the United Nations should promote the protection of the global climate for the well-being of present and future generations of humankind,

Welcoming the adoption, at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,[23] held in Kigali from 10 to 15 October 2016, of the Kigali Amendment[24] to phase down hydrofluorocarbons, welcoming the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol by 23 countries, and encouraging further ratifications as soon as possible,

Noting the contribution of the International Civil Aviation Organization to global efforts to combat climate change, and noting also the contribution of the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, and emphasizes in this regard that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Welcomes* the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Government of Morocco in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016;

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[19] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[20] *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[21] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1.

[22] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25.

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1522, No. 26369.

[24] UNEP/OzL.Pro.28/12, annex I.

3. *Also welcomes* the early entry into force, on 4 November 2016, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[2] and encourages all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible;

4. *Recalls* that the Paris Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production, and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

5. *Welcomes* the nationally determined contributions submitted to date, and recalls that the regular updating of such contributions should reflect the highest possible level of ambition, in the light of different national circumstances, and should provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding, in accordance with the relevant decisions;

6. *Also welcomes* the call of the Secretary-General for a climate summit to be held in New York in 2019;

7. *Emphasizes* the need for collective efforts to promote sustainable development in its three dimensions in an innovative, coordinated, environmentally sound, open and shared manner;

8. *Reiterates* the call made in the declaration "Our ocean, our future: call for action"[25] for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

9. *Acknowledges* the work undertaken under the auspices of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action,[26] and encourages non-party stakeholders to scale up their efforts to address and respond to climate change;

10. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level meeting during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on the issue of the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind in the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[27]

11. *Reiterates* the resolve of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 1/CP.19,[28] to accelerate the full implementation of the decisions constituting the agreed outcome pursuant to its decision 1/CP.13[29] and to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all parties;

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[25] See resolution 71/312, annex.
[26] See FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1.
[27] Resolution 70/1.
[28] See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1.
[29] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1.

12. *Welcomes* the acceptance or ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol[30] by 95 countries, and encourages further acceptance or ratifications as soon as possible;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[31]

14. *Recognizes* the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and in that regard takes note of decisions 2/CP.19,[28] 2/CP.20[32] and 3/CP.22[33] adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, and decision 1/CP.21,[34] in which the Paris Agreement was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the convening by the Government of Fiji of, and the provision of technical assistance by the Government of Germany to, the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017;

16. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Poland to host the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Katowice, from 3 to 14 December 2018;

17. *Looks forward* to the further implementation of the programme of work under the Paris Agreement, in accordance with relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as to the *Talanoa* (facilitative) dialogue in 2018;

18. *Urges* Member States, taking into account that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources towards achieving the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, and stresses the need to address the challenges posed by climate change that affect women and girls in particular;

19. *Endorses* the action plan for integrating sustainable development practices into Secretariat-wide operations and facilities management submitted by the Secretary-General,[35] and requests the Secretary-General to implement his relevant recommendations within existing resources;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

21. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the work of the

[30] See FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13/Add.1.
[31] A/72/152, sect. I, and A/72/152/Corr.1.
[32] See FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.2.
[33] See FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1.
[34] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1.
[35] A/72/82.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/220

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19 (e)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.5)*]

72/220. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/229 of 21 December 2016, as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community committed to combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by 2030,

Acknowledging that action to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and achieve a land degradation-neutral world can deliver multiple benefits and that land degradation

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing and climate finance to implement the Convention,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[2] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[4] and acknowledging that all types of forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as soil and water conservation and clean air, and that all forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, sand and dust storms and other disasters,

Noting that combating desertification, land degradation and drought, including through sustainable land management, can contribute to easing forced migration flows influenced by a number of factors, including economic, social, security and environmental concerns, which can, in turn, reduce current and potential fighting over resources in degraded areas,

Encouraging countries to give due consideration to the dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,[5]

Recognizing that drought resilience is an important element in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as well as of target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality,[6]

Highlighting the important role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,[7]

Recognizing that sand and dust storms can be exacerbated by desertification, land degradation and drought and that sustainable land management in the context of land degradation neutrality, including land management and sustainable water use, can contribute to effective responses to sand and dust storms,

Welcoming the fact that 114 States have subscribed to the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme under the United Nations Convention

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[2] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] See resolution 71/285.

[5] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

[6] See resolution 70/1.

[7] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1, decision 7/COP.13, annex.

to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recognizing the value of knowledge, education, science and new technology to sustainable development and good land management, including making use of, inter alia, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making, and that science and technology to combat desertification, land degradation and drought should therefore be further promoted, and welcoming the organization of the technology fair at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of China for hosting the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 71/229 on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[9]

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption of the Ordos Declaration at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging countries to step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought, which are seen as major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development;[10]

4. *Recognizes* the importance of applying new and innovative technologies, as well as sharing best practices, in combating desertification, land degradation and drought, and invites the Secretary-General to identify those technologies and best practices in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Takes note*, as appropriate, of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its thirteenth session, to promote the positive role that measures taken to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] can play in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that can cause migration, and invites all stakeholders to take note of this when addressing drivers of migration within the ongoing processes;

6. *Encourages* the public and private sectors to continue to invest in developing technologies, methods and tools to combat desertification, land degradation and drought in different regions, and to boost knowledge exchange, including of traditional knowledge with the consent of the knowledge holders, capacity-building and sharing of technologies on mutually agreed terms;

7. *Encourages* developed countries party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or

[8] A/72/152, sect. II, and A/72/152/Corr.1.

[9] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1.

[10] Ibid., decision 27/COP.13, annex.

Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to actively support the efforts of developing countries party to the Convention in promoting sustainable land management practices and in seeking to achieve a land degradation-neutral world by providing substantial financial resources, facilitated access to appropriate technology and other forms of support, including through capacity-building measures;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention,[7] including a new strategic objective on drought, and strongly encourages the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including in their national action programmes, as appropriate, and to implement the Strategic Framework, taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[11]

9. *Recognizes* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[6] and calls upon parties to the Convention and partners to pursue the equal participation of women and men in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels and to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in desertification, land degradation and drought-related policies and activities as a means to strengthen the effective and efficient implementation of action on the ground;

10. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral partners to support parties to the Convention in the implementation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention;

11. *Encourages* parties to the Convention to continue to promote the prevention of desertification, land degradation and drought with an integrated landscape approach, including the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land and sustainable land management;

12. *Calls upon* parties to the Convention to enhance and support the preparation of drought preparedness policies on, inter alia, early warning systems, vulnerability and risk assessment, as well as drought risk mitigation measures;

13. *Welcomes* target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world,[6] takes note with appreciation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme under the Convention and the work of the secretariat of the Convention and partners to assist States in carrying out voluntary target setting activities, and in this respect invites States that have not yet subscribed to the programme to do so;

14. *Invites* more investment aimed at the operationalization of the voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programme and the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund as an innovative funding scheme to finance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for the achievement of a land degradation-neutral world;

15. *Recognizes* the benefits gained from cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, while also taking account of dust and sand storms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard likewise

[11] Resolution 69/313, annex.

recognizes the need for further cooperation between parties to the Convention and relevant organizations in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

16. *Invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas, including land degradation, and encourages parties to the Convention to advocate a balanced allocation of funds during the seventh replenishment process under the Facility;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Convention on Biological Diversity,[12] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this respect notes the ongoing efforts to strengthen synergies among the secretariats of the aforementioned conventions;

18. *Reaffirms* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Secretariat for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention no later than 31 December 2023, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session;

19. *Decides* to include, in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2018–2019, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium, and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for those sessions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

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[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

United Nations A/RES/72/221

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19 (f)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.6)]

72/221. Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010, 66/202 of 22 December 2011, 67/212 of 21 December 2012, 68/214 of 20 December 2013, 69/222 of 19 December 2014, 70/207 of 22 December 2015 and 71/230 of 21 December 2016 and its previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[5] and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals convened by the President of the General Assembly,[6]

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7] and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity contained therein,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 68/6.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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Reaffirming also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[8] and its principles,

Reaffirming further its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[9] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020,[11]

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Taking note of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting entitled "Article 8 (j) and related provisions",[12] decision CBD/CP/MOP/VIII/19[13] and decision CBD/NP/MOP/DEC/2/7,[14]

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[15] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,[16]

Recognizing the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and reaffirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

Recognizing also the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[17] an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and in ensuring that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction,[18] and that should contribute to tangible benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities, stressing the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria, recognizing the economic, social and environmental impacts of poaching and of illicit trafficking in wildlife, where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides, and emphasizing in this regard the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations,

Noting the contribution of parties to and the secretariat[19] of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation,

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[11] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2, annex.

[12] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25, decision XIII/18.

[13] Adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its eighth meeting (see United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/CP/MOP/8/17).

[14] Adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization at its second meeting (see United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/NP/MOP/2/13).

[15] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[16] Resolution 69/2.

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

[18] See resolution Conf. 16.7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

[19] See resolution Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17), entitled "CITES Strategic Vision: 2008–2020".

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, in this regard reaffirming the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recalling also the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[20] and recognizing that forests are home to an estimated 80 per cent of all terrestrial species and that all types of forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the conservation of biodiversity,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[21] and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of sustainable development,

Noting also that 91 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 103 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya Protocol, and noting also in this regard that the Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014,

Noting further the Nagoya Protocol, the objective of which is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components,

Noting that 195 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and that 170 States and 1 regional economic integration organization are parties to its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[22]

Noting also that 50 States and 1 regional economic integration organization have signed and that 40 States and 1 regional economic integration organization that are parties to the Cartagena Protocol have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[23]

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement

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[20] Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4, annex I.

[21] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

[22] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

[23] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/17, annex, decision BS-V/11.

of the three objectives of the Convention,[24] as well as decision X/3, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting,[25] on the review of its implementation, and the targets for resource mobilization, under Aichi Target 20 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision XII/3,[26]

Noting the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[27] the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol[28] and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol,[29] all held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2016,

Noting also the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 10 to 22 November 2018, as well as the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, all under the proposed theme "Investing in biodiversity for people and planet", and recognizing that the outcomes of the meetings will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity;[30]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the recent appointment of the new Executive Secretary, and expresses its support for her tenure;

3. *Also notes with appreciation* the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity[31] on 12 October 2014;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-being, adopted at the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;[31]

5. *Welcomes* the commitment of parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to take specific actions, tailored to national needs and circumstances, and in line with other relevant international agreements, in agriculture, forestry, fisheries

[24] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11.
[25] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.
[26] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, sect. I.
[27] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25, sect. I.
[28] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/CP/MOP/8/17, sect. I.
[29] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/NP/MOP/2/13, sect. I.
[30] A/72/152, sect. III, and A/72/152/Corr.1.
[31] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24.

and tourism, bearing in mind the impact of these sectors on biodiversity, in various direct and indirect ways;

6. *Encourages* the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] and the Protocols thereto, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[22] and the Nagoya Protocol, requests the parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement the obligations and commitments under the Convention and the Protocols, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that may impede their implementation;

7. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

8. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 16 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as well as of decision XI/2, entitled "Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties",[32] and also takes note of the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in this regard;[26]

9. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the secretariat of the Convention, parties to the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in conjunction with United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, as well as other entities, in organizing capacity-building workshops to support countries in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with a view to enhancing capacity and addressing the need for human, technical and financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020[11] and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,[11] adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting, in particular for developing countries;

10. *Urges* parties to promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations, taking into account the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity,[33] in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans and equivalent instruments in implementing the three objectives of the Convention;

11. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and calls upon

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[32] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35, annex I.

[33] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, sect. I, decision XII/7, annex.

parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention;

13. *Stresses* the importance of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the parties to the Convention, and, given the limited time remaining, calls upon all parties to accelerate and scale up efforts to implement them, acknowledging the contribution of such efforts to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[14] and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

14. *Highlights* the importance of parties raising high-level political engagement for the achievement by 2020 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Reiterates* the call made in the declaration "Our ocean, our future: call for action"[15] for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

16. *Invites* all parties, relevant departments of the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to continue contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;

17. *Reaffirms* the need for a comprehensive and participatory process towards developing proposals for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, fully in line with decision XIII/1[16] and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

18. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention have reiterated that resources, financial, human and technical, need to be mobilized from all sources, and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved, in this regard welcomes the decision of the parties to the Convention on an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan from a variety of sources, including national and international resource mobilization and international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms, as appropriate, and takes note of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its thirteenth session, including the request to the Executive Secretary to prepare a stocktake and updated analysis of financial reports received in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of the global overall progress towards the global targets;

19. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

20. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol, and invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate as the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue to support capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol;

21. *Also invites* parties to the Convention to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Cartagena Protocol;

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[14] Resolution 70/1.

[15] Resolution 71/312.

[16] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25.

22. *Invites* parties to the Cartagena Protocol to consider, as appropriate, ratifying or acceding to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;[23]

23. *Takes note* of the work done by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, and in this regard invites the secretariat of the Convention, through the Secretary-General, to report on the progress made when reporting on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly;

24. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of national implementation plans for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular all biodiversity-related Goals and targets;

25. *Looks forward* to the sixth plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, to be held in Medellin, Colombia, from 17 to 24 March 2018, which aims to provide policy-relevant information on biodiversity and ecosystem services to assist decision makers, including through its regional and subregional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services and its thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration;

26. *Stresses* the importance of the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in the achievement of the biodiversity targets, invites them to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities, in this regard stresses the importance of the ongoing work of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and notes other related and complementary initiatives;

27. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[17] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[13] (the Rio conventions) and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, in this regard notes the contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as reflected in its resolution 2/17 of 27 May 2016,[18] and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

28. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and difficulties encountered in the process of their

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[18] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/71/25), annex.

implementation, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/222

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19 (g)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.7)]

72/222. Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/209 of 22 December 2015 and other previous resolutions on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,

Reaffirming further the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and

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complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Acknowledging the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys, which will require reaching children living in extreme poverty, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children and those in conflict and post-conflict situations and providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all, and recognizing the importance of scaling up investments and international cooperation to allow all children to complete free, equitable, inclusive and quality early childhood, primary and secondary education, including through scaling up and strengthening initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education, and by upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-sensitive and increasing the percentage of qualified teachers in developing countries, including through international cooperation, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States,

Acknowledging also the importance of adopting science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies to help to strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration and the importance of scaling up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and enhancing technical, vocational and tertiary education, distance education and training and of ensuring equal access for women and girls and encouraging their participation therein,

Acknowledging further the importance of education for achieving sustainable development, including in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21,[1] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[2] the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, organized by the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 10 to 12 November 2014, the World Education Forum 2015, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 22 May 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Education 2030 Framework for Action, adopted on 4 November 2015 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization during its thirty-eighth session,

Noting the key findings contained in the review of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005–2014, prepared by the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[3] the challenges outlined therein and the recommendations for the realization of the full potential of the Decade,

Noting also the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development as follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014,[4] the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/70/228.

[4] See A/69/76.

Development, adopted at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development,[5] and the Incheon Declaration of the World Education Forum 2015,[6]

Recognizing the importance of promoting a holistic approach to education for sustainable development and of encouraging the reinforcement of the interdisciplinary linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental, including different branches of knowledge,

Recognizing also the role of education for sustainable development in promoting and enhancing public awareness of the eradication of poverty, of sustainable consumption and production of combating climate change, of building disaster-resilient communities and of promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, among other things,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services during humanitarian emergencies on efforts to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, and recognizing the need to support early childhood education, as well as to promote tertiary education, skills training and vocational education in conflict and crisis situations, where higher education serves as a powerful driver for change, shelters and protects a critical group of young men and women by maintaining their hopes for the future, fosters inclusion and non-discrimination and acts as a catalyst for the recovery and rebuilding of post-conflict countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of education for sustainable development,[7] which provided an overview of education for sustainable development in the framework of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development; [4]

2. *Reaffirms* education for sustainable development as a vital means of implementation for sustainable development, as outlined in the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development,[5] and as an integral element of the Sustainable Development Goal on quality education and a key enabler of all the other Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes the increased international recognition of education for sustainable development in quality education and lifelong learning;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to provide inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels — early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and distance education, including technical and vocational training — so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development;

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[5] A/70/228, annex.

[6] Incheon Declaration: Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all.

[7] A/72/130.

4. *Encourages* Governments and other concerned stakeholders to scale up education for sustainable development action through implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development as follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014;[4]

5. *Encourages* Governments to increase efforts to systemically integrate and institutionalize education for sustainable development in the education sector and other relevant sectors, as appropriate, including through, inter alia, the provision of financial resources, the inclusion of education for sustainable development in relevant policies and the development of the capacities of policymakers, institutional leaders and educators, as well as through the strengthening of research and innovation, and monitoring and evaluation on education for sustainable development in order to support the scaling up of good practices;

6. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries towards the realization of the full potential of education for sustainable development;

7. *Decides* to continue to give consideration, as appropriate, to the contribution of education for sustainable development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[5]

8. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the specialized United Nations agency for education, to continue its mandated role to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 agenda, in particular through the Sustainable Development Goal Education 2030 Steering Committee, as an inclusive global multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination mechanism for education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process;

9. *Also invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the lead agency for education for sustainable development, to continue to provide coordination for the implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, and to continue to advocate the importance of ensuring adequate resources for education for sustainable development, and calls upon the United Nations system to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the Global Action Programme;

10. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support and assist Member States, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to promote education for sustainable development, including through knowledge-sharing and standard-setting, the exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study;

11. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess, in consultation with Member States, progress towards the achievement of education for sustainable development;

12. *Encourages* all countries, relevant intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to the contribution of education to the

[4] Resolution 70/1.

achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments;

13. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Education for sustainable development"

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.8)*]

72/223. Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5]

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[6]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the 1982 World Charter for Nature,[7]

Noting the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,[8]

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[9]

Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010, 66/204 of 22 December 2011, 67/214 of 21 December 2012, 68/216 of 20 December 2013, 69/224 of 19 December 2014, 70/208 of 22 December 2015 and 71/232 of 21 December 2016 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Noting with appreciation the interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature convened by the President of the General Assembly with the overall theme of Earth jurisprudence, held on 21 April 2017, in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day and to inspire citizens and societies to reconsider how they interact with the natural world in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in harmony with nature, and noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development,

Recognizing that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, noting that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and expressing the conviction that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature,

Noting that, in promoting a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development in harmony with nature, Earth system science plays a significant role,

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation, potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on the Earth systems, with the aim of promoting and ensuring an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth,

Recognizing that a number of countries consider Mother Earth the source of all life and nourishment and that these countries consider Mother Earth and humankind to be an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings,

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[7] Resolution 37/7, annex.

[8] See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

[9] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Noting that in recent years there have been many initiatives on sustainable development governance, including policy documents on living well in harmony with nature,

Taking note of the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,[10]

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity, nor is it an indicator of development, and the need to overcome these limitations with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three dimensions of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations, indigenous peoples and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods and therefore contribute to global efforts and initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that some countries are discussing the possibility of considering a declaration on the protection of nature,

Noting also that both formal and informal educational activities on the rights of nature have arisen in the professional and public spheres in some countries in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and encouraging a holistic approach of education and public awareness for sustainable development in its three dimensions,

Recognizing the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists with regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts, along with those of Governments and private sector organizations, to devise more sustainable models and methods for production and consumption,

Noting the work of the experts of the Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network, who have initiated important activities to support the United Nations with the goal of ensuring that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, as set out in target 12.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

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[10] See IPBES/2/17.

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;[11]

2. *Invites* Member States to consider existing studies and, as appropriate, the findings and recommendations of the reports of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature,[12] of the experts' summary report of the first virtual dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, addressing Earth jurisprudence,[13] and of the interactive dialogues of the Assembly on Harmony with Nature in the promotion of the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through harmony with nature;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the seventy-second session of the Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 23 April 2018, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to inspire citizens and societies to reconsider how they interact with the natural world and to improve the ethical basis of the relationship between humankind and the Earth in the context of sustainable development, and to discuss sustainable production and consumption patterns in harmony with nature, so as to ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature, as called for in target 12.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

4. *Decides* to continue observing International Mother Earth Day annually on 22 April, requests the Secretary-General to provide continuing support, and encourages Member States to observe the International Day at the national level;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the agreement between the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,[14] invites Member States to contribute to the earmarked activities related to Harmony with Nature under the trust fund of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, aiming, inter alia, at the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogues of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, and invites relevant stakeholders to contribute to the earmarked activities related to Harmony with Nature;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use the website on Harmony with Nature, managed by the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature and to advance the integration of interdisciplinary scientific work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge and on existing national legislation;

7. *Calls for* holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development, in its three dimensions, that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;

8. *Invites* States, as appropriate:

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[11] A/72/175.

[12] A/65/314, A/66/302, A/67/317, A/68/325, A/68/325/Corr.1, A/69/322, A/70/268 and A/72/175.

[13] See A/71/266.

[14] Available from www.harmonywithnatureun.org/trustfund.html.

(a) To further build up a knowledge network in order to advance a holistic conceptualization of sustainable development in its three dimensions to identify different economic approaches that reflect the drivers and values of living in harmony with nature, relying on current scientific information to achieve sustainable development, and to facilitate support for and recognition of the fundamental interconnections between humankind and nature;

(b) To promote harmony with the Earth, including as found in indigenous cultures, to learn from those cultures and to support and promote efforts being made from the national level down to the local community level to reflect the protection of nature;

9. *Encourages* all countries to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic national statistical data on the three dimensions of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

10. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard notes the ongoing work of the Statistical Commission on a work programme to develop broader measures of progress and to conduct a technical review of existing efforts in this area;[15]

11. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Harmony with Nature", unless otherwise agreed.

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[15] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 4* (E/2013/24), chap. I, sect. C, decision 44/114.